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IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF ARIZONA

MI FAMILIA VOTA,

PLAINTIFF,

v.

ADRIAN FONTES, IN HIS OFFICIAL
CAPACITY AS ARIZONA SECRETARY
OF STATES, ET AL.,

DEFENDANTS.

AND CONSOLIDATED CASES

CASE NO.: 2:22-CV-00509-SRB (LEAD)

NO. CV-22-00519-PHX-SRB NO. CV-22-
01003-PHX-SRB NO. CV-22-01124-PHX-
SRB NO. CV-22-01369-PHX-SRB NO. CV-
22-01381-PHX-SRB NO. CV-22-01602-PHX-
SRB NO. CV-22-01901-PHX-SRB

**MEMORANDUM OF LAW AS *AMICUS CURIAE* IN SUPPORT OF ARIZONA'S ELECTION
LAWS FROM ADVOCATES FOR VICTIMS OF ILLEGAL ALIEN CRIME**

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INTRODUCTION

On March 30, 2022, Arizona’s House Bill 2492 (A.R.S. § 16-166) was signed into law requiring Arizonans to provide proof of U.S. citizenship and jurisdictional residency to register and vote in Arizona elections. On January 1, 2023, the amended statutes went into effect. House Bill 2243 (A.R.S. § 16-101(E)) requires the County Recorder to review the voter rolls each month and purge persons the County Recorder believes are not citizens or who are no longer residents, and to comply with the law’s other duties, ensuring that only U.S. citizens may register and vote in Arizona elections. These new laws streamlined the former patchwork of Arizona election laws to improve election integrity and to ensure consistency so that all eligible voters are treated equally. Both of these new laws are consistent with the National Voters Registration Act’s (NVRA) stated goals both to encourage eligible voters to register as well as mandate election officials to purge ineligible voters from the rolls. Arizona’s new laws also comply with the United States Constitution’s requirement that only United States citizens may vote in elections.

The United States government and several plaintiff groups sued to override both the United States Constitution’s requirements that only U.S. citizens vote in elections and Arizona House Bill 2492, which requires proof of U.S. citizenship to vote in elections, and 2243, which required election offices to purge ineligible voters from their rolls. The non-U.S. citizen plaintiffs are curiously participating in this case even though they are not eligible to vote in U.S. elections. Remarkably, Arizona, through the Attorney General’s office, has filed a motion for partial summary judgment asking the Court to decide the issues of law, agreeing that “U.S. citizenship is a basic requirement for voting” and

1 urging the Court to uphold Arizona’s voting laws. Arizona’s Motion for Partial
 2 Summary Judgment, Docket #364, at 14-15.

3 ARGUMENT

4 1. THE RIGHT TO VOTE IS A FUNDAMENTAL RIGHT SECURED 5 ONLY FOR ELIGIBLE U.S. CITIZENS

6 Requiring proof of citizenship is constitutional. The right to vote is exclusively for
 7 U.S. Citizens and described by the United States Supreme Court as “the honorable
 8 prerogative which no alien has a constitutional right to enjoy.” *Foley v. Connelie*, 435
 9 U.S. 291, 311; 98 S. Ct. 1067; 55 L. Ed. 287 (1978). Therefore, “it is clear that a State
 10 may deny aliens the right to vote” and “to participate in the making of policy.” *Id.* at 291,
 11 296-97. These principles “lie at the heart of our political institutions.” *Id.* at 291 (citing
 12 *Sugarman v. Dougall*, 413 U.S. 634, 647; 93 S. Ct. 2842; 37 L. Ed. 2d 853 (1973)).
 13 Plaintiffs have overlooked the fact that Arizona’s law is complimentary to the National
 14 Voter Registration Act of 1993 (NVRA), 42 U.S.C.S. § 1973 et seq., which enshrines
 15 into law the Supreme Court’s previous statement in *Foley*. Requiring proof of citizenship
 16 is constitutional. The NVRA states that its purposes are:
 17

- 18 (1) “to establish procedures that will increase the number of *eligible citizens*
 19 who register to vote in elections for Federal office;
 20
- 21 (2) to make it possible for Federal, State, and local governments to
 22 implement this chapter in a manner that enhances the participation
 23 of *eligible citizens as voters* in elections for Federal office;
 24
- 25 (3) to *protect the integrity of the electoral process*; and
 26

(4) to ensure that accurate and current voter registration rolls are maintained.” (emphasis added).

The word “citizen” as defined by several dictionaries, including the *Britannica Dictionary*, is a “person who legally belongs to a country and has the rights and protection of that country.”¹ Citizenship, therefore, is fundamental to the right to vote and maintaining the Constitution’s promise that votes must not be canceled out or nullified by the tabulation of ineligible votes. Non-citizens must be prohibited from voting, as their doing so would dilute votes of U.S. citizens and affect the outcome of elections, which are supposed to be representative of the choice of lawful U.S. citizens. As the Supreme Court has confirmed on multiple occasions, an infringement upon this right occurs where a legal citizen’s vote is diluted or nullified. Thus, a citizen’s right to a vote free of arbitrary impairment by state action has been judicially recognized as a right secured by the Constitution, when such impairment resulted from dilution by a false tally, *cf. United States v. Classic*, 313 U.S. 299, 314-15; 61 S. Ct. 1031; 85 L. Ed. 1355 (1915), or by stuffing of the ballot box, *cf. Ex parte Siebold*, 100 U.S. 371, 388; 25 L. Ed. 717 (1879); *United States v. Saylor*, 322 U.S. 385, 389; 64 S. Ct. 1101; 88 L. Ed. 1341 (1944). *See also Baker v. Carr*, 369 U.S. 186, 208; 82 S. Ct. 691; 7 L. Ed. 2d 663 (1962). This nullification of an individual choice occurs whenever any illegitimate vote is cast, whether it be by a non-citizen or by a non-registered or non-existent “voter.” *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 565; 84 S. Ct. 1362, 1383; 12 L. Ed. 2d 506 (1964) (“each citizen

¹ <https://www.britannica.com/dictionary/citizen> (last checked May 22, 2023)

1 [has] an equally effective voice in the election... and the Constitution demands, no
2 less.”).

3 Thus, it is no surprise that the NVRA includes the term “eligible citizens” as part
4 of the requirements for voter eligibility, which are that one must be a U.S. citizen, be 18
5 years or older, meet one’s state’s residency requirements, and be registered to vote by
6 that state’s voter registration deadline. NVRA includes non-citizens in its list of persons
7 not eligible to vote, including lawful permanent residents.²
8
9

10 The United States Constitution’s requirements that only U.S. citizens vote in
11 elections are reflected in Arizona’s House Bill 2492, which requires proof of U.S.
12 citizenship to vote in elections, and Bill 2243, which requires the County Recorder to
13 review the voter rolls each month and purge persons who the County Recorder believes
14 are not citizens, *id.* § 2(H), and comply with other duties to ensure that only U.S. citizens
15 may register and vote in Arizona elections.
16

17 Every state has both the duty and right to prevent non-citizens from voting in local,
18 state, and national elections. U.S. Citizens demand nothing less. In fact, the United States
19 Constitution excludes non-citizens from the privilege, and with good reason. “Regulation
20 of the electoral process receives unusual scrutiny because ‘the right to exercise the
21 franchise in a free and unimpaired manner is preservative of other basic civil and political
22 rights.’” *Mathews v. Diaz*, 426 U.S. 67, 78-79, 96 S. Ct. 1883, 1890-91 (1976) (quoting
23
24
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27 ² <https://www.usa.gov/who-can-vote> (last checked May 22, 2023)
28

1 *Reynolds v. Sims*, 377 U.S. 533, 562; 84 S. Ct. 1362; 12 L.Ed.2d 506 (1964)). *See also*
 2 *Dunn v. Blumstein*, 405 U.S. 330, 336; 92 S. Ct. 995; 31 L. Ed. 2d 274 (1972). In other
 3 words, the “right to vote is accorded extraordinary treatment because it is, in equal
 4 protection terms, an extraordinary right: a citizen cannot hope to achieve any meaningful
 5 degree of individual political equality if granted an inferior right of participation in the
 6 political process.” *Plyler v Doe*, 457 U.S. 202, 233; 102 S. Ct. 2382; 72 L. Ed. 2d 786,
 8 810 (1982). The Constitution protects the privileges and immunities only of citizens,
 9 U.S. Const. amend. 14, § 1; Art. IV, § 2, cl. 1, and the right to vote only of citizens. U.S.
 10 Const. amend. 15, 19, 24, and 26. *Mathews*, *supra* at 78-79, n. 12, *Foley*, *supra* at 291,
 11 *Sugarman*, *supra* at 647.

12
 13
 14 Not only does the Constitution protect citizens’ right to vote, but nothing in it
 15 could ever authorize the executive, legislative or judicial branches of the federal
 16 government to force states to allow non-citizens to exercise the same privileges
 17 accorded to citizens of the U.S. and of the several states. Moreover, states have a
 18 compelling right and interest in preserving the integrity of elections by protecting against
 19 fraud and assuring citizens of election integrity so that they will exercise their right
 20 to vote with vigor and confidence that their representative choice will be honored.
 21
 22

23 What the NVRA may not do is dictate how each state legislates its election laws.
 24 Citizenship and Arizona residency are both a requirement for voter eligibility in all
 25 federal, state and local elections in the State of Arizona. County election offices must
 26 regularly purge voter rolls of ineligible voters, including non-citizens. Federal statutes,
 27 and any associated administrative forms, may not interfere with a state’s right to
 28

1 determine its own election laws. Their doing so would violate the Tenth Amendment of
2 the U.S. Constitution. U.S. Const. amend X (“The powers not delegated to the United
3 States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States
4 respectively...”).

6 More explicitly, not only does the Constitution protect the states from federal
7 overreach, but it protects the individual rights of citizens from overreach from either
8 federal or state government. Such overreach would occur if the federal government
9 forced a state to allow non-citizens to vote.

11 To this end, as an added measure of assurance, it is declared that “[t]he
12 enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or
13 disparage others retained by the people.” U.S. Const. amend. IX. It was universally
14 agreed by the Framers that there are additional fundamental rights, protected from
15 government infringement, which exist alongside those specifically mentioned in the first
16 eight amendments. I Annual of Congress 439 (Gales and Seaton ed. 1834). See also II
17 Story, Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States (5th ed. 1891) at 626-626.
18 “The [Ninth Amendment... was proffered to quiet expressed fears that a bill of
19 specifically enumerated rights could not be sufficiently broad to cover all essential rights
20 and that the specific mention of certain rights would be interpreted as a denial that others
21 were protected.” *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137, 174 (1803). See also *Myers*
22 *v. United States*, 272 U.S. 52, 229; 47 S. Ct. 21, 63 (1926).

27 As “it cannot be presumed that any clause in the constitution is intended to be
28 without effect... effect should be given to all the words it uses.” *United Pub. Workers v.*

1 *Mitchell*, 330 U.S. 75, 94-96; 67 S. t. 556 (1947). And, indeed, a right to political
2 affiliation and political choice has been addressed as protected, at least in part, by the
3 amendment. This includes, of course, the fundamental right to vote. *Id.* See also
4 *Reynolds*, 377 U.S. at 560.

6 That the latter is the fundamental and primary right among all other fundamental
7 rights, enumerated or not, is evident in the fact it is self-executing. Infringement upon it
8 cannot occur under the Constitution if the government is, in fact, one that is duly and
9 legally chosen by the People. Any government that asserts a mandate on the basis of
10 fraud or illegality effectuates an instant infringement on the will of the People, and, of
11 necessity, has no legitimacy. More specifically, the Supreme Court has described the
12 privilege to vote as a fundamental constitutional right preservative of all others. *Yick Wo*
13 *v. Hopkins*, 118 U.S. 356, 370, 6 S. Ct. 1064, 1071, 30 L. Ed. 220, 226 (1886). As the
14 Court later confirmed, an infringement upon this right occurs where a legal citizen's vote
15 is diluted or nullified. This nullification of an individual choice occurs whenever any
16 illegitimate vote is cast, whether it be by a non-citizen, a non-registered voter, or a non-
17 existent "voter." *Reynolds, supra* at 565; 84 S. Ct. 1362, 1383' 12 L. Ed.2d 506 (1964).

21 The NVRA form is an optional federal form narrowly tailored to limit
22 constitutional overreach into a state's legislative authority to draft and amend its own
23 election laws. See U.S. Const. Art. I, §4. ("each State by the Legislature thereof...").
24 Congress never intended the NVRA form to be used as a loophole, by non-citizens, to
25 register and vote in elections. States have full authority to enact election laws to protect
26 election integrity. Nowhere does the NVRA expressly prohibit the states from requiring
27
28

valid proof of citizenship, and in fact it could not do so. *See Arizona v. Inter Tribal Council of Ariz., Inc.*, 570 U.S. 1, 1, 133 S. Ct. 2247, 2249 (2013). Ironically, Section 5 of the NVRA requires that “[t]he voter registration application must state each voter eligibility (including citizenship) ...” 52 U.S.C. § 20507(5). The use of the NVRA does not negate or void a citizenship requirement, but it mandates one.

2. ARIZONA’S ELECTION LAW AMENDMENTS PROTECT THE INTEGRITY OF THE ELECTORAL PROCESS

Election integrity requires preventing non-citizens or the deceased from voting and multi-voting, and other ineligible individuals from casting votes. While the NVRA pertains to federal elections, permitting voting by ineligible voters in state and local elections can impact federal election voting. The federal government and states are mandated to ensure election laws are followed and consistently so.

Arizona’s new laws, effective January 1, 2023, require county election offices to verify voter eligibility and to clean voter registration rolls. Election integrity is of primary importance for U.S. voters to protect against multi-voting and to prevent deceased and ineligible voters from remaining on voter rolls. Prevention and removal of ineligible voters are part of the NVRA requirements:

“(4) conduct a general program that makes a reasonable effort to remove the names of ineligible voters from the official lists of eligible voters by reason of—

(A) the death of the registrant; or

(B) a change in the residence of the registrant, in accordance with subsections (b), (c), and (d);

(5) inform applicants under sections 20504, 20505, and 20506 of this title of—

(A) voter eligibility requirements; and

1 (B) penalties provided by law for submission of a false voter
 2 registration application; and
 3 (6) ensure that the identity of the voter registration agency through
 4 which any particular voter is registered is not disclosed to the public.”

5 52 U.S.C. § 20505.

6 A recent Arizona news article aptly highlights the need for proof of citizenship
 7 verification as well as purging voter rolls of ineligible voters. In Maricopa county, the
 8 article noted that “more than 200 self-acknowledged noncitizens have managed to
 9 register to vote in Arizona’s Maricopa County and at least nine of them have cast ballots
 10 in federal elections...”³ Since 2015, only 222 registered non-citizens were honest enough
 11 to come forward and notify officials of the registration error. This means that, as the
 12 fourth largest county, there are possibly hundreds or thousands more ineligible voters on
 13 Maricopa’s and other county’s voter rolls. One of the reasons these individuals came
 14 forward may be that “immigrants seeking citizenship often come forward and
 15 acknowledge that they are on the rolls because one of the questions on the naturalization
 16 form is whether they ever were illegally registered. Lying on that form can quickly earn
 17 deportation.” The penalties for fraudulent voter registration are a class 6 felony, which
 18 would mean automatic removal from the U.S.⁴ See A.R.S. § 16-182 (A). This
 19 means that Arizona’s election offices have much work to not only to purge ineligible
 20
 21
 22
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26 ³ <https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2023/apr/25/hundreds-noncitizens-ended-voting-rolls-maricopa-c/>

27 ⁴ A person who knowingly causes, procures or allows himself to be registered as an elector of any county, city, town,
 28 district or precinct, knowing that he is not entitled to such registration, or a person who knowingly causes or procures
 another person to be registered as an elector of any county, city, town, district or precinct, knowing that such other
 person is not entitled to such registration, or an officer who knowingly enters the name of any person not entitled to
 registration upon the register or roll of electors, is guilty of a class 6 felony.

1 voters but to prevent more ineligible voters from registering as is mandated by both the
2 NVRA and Arizona's elections laws.

3 Election integrity is of primary importance for U.S. Citizen voters to protect against
4 non-citizen voting, multi-voting, and deceased and ineligible voters that must now be
5 removed from voter rolls. Election integrity also increases the number of qualified U.S.
6 citizens who register and vote in elections, something that the NVRA was designed to
7 encourage.
8

9 CONCLUSION

10 Arizona's enacted election laws are constitutional and must be upheld.

11 Respectfully submitted this May 22, 2023.
12

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IDENTITY, INTEREST AND AUTHORITY TO FILE

Amicus curiae Advocates for Victims of Illegal Alien Crime (“AVIAC”) is a 26 U.S.C. § 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that was founded in 2017. AVIAC is led by individuals who have lost family members because of crimes committed by undocumented immigrants. AVIAC’s mission includes being a source of support for such victims across the country and a resource for policies that will enforce the nation’s immigration laws and prevent governmental incentives for illegal immigration.

AVIAC objects to providing non-citizens with the right to vote in any election, whether local, state, or federal as it dilutes the votes of eligible U.S. citizens. Proof of citizenship is fundamental to ensuring that only U.S. citizens vote to protect America’s representative democracy. This case concerns the attempt by several Plaintiffs to override the United States Constitution’s requirements and Arizona’s election laws that only U.S. citizens vote in elections. AVIAC supports the State of Arizona’s Election Laws rather than any party in this lawsuit. AVIAC is concerned about incursions on the sovereignty of American citizens by non-citizens voting in local, state and federal elections. Accordingly, AVIAC seeks to ensure that only American citizens are permitted to vote in Arizona’s municipal, county, statewide and federal elections.

“The extent, if any, to which an amicus curiae should be permitted to participate in a pending action is solely within the broad discretion of the district court.” *Sierra Club v. Fed. Emergency Mgmt. Agency*, 2007 WL 3472851, at *1 (S.D. Tex. Nov. 14, 2007).

Pursuant to F.R.CIV.P. 7 and FED. R. APP. P. 29(a)(4)(E), undersigned counsel certifies that: counsel for AVIAC authored this brief in whole; no counsel for a party authored this brief in any respect; and no person or entity other than amicus, its members, and its counsel contributed monetarily to this brief’s preparation or submission.

DATED: May 22, 2023

/s/ Veronica Lucero

CORPORATE DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Pursuant to Rule 7.1 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, amicus curiae AVIAC makes the following disclosures:

1. For non-governmental corporate parties please list all parent corporations: None.
2. For non-governmental corporate parties please list all publicly held companies that hold 10% or more of the party's stock: None.

DATED: May 22, 2023

/s/ Veronica Lucero

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLIANCE

1. This brief has been prepared using 13-point, proportionately spaced, serif typeface, in Microsoft Word.

2. This brief complies with Fed. R. App. P. 29(a)(5) and 32(a)(7)(B) because it contains less than 3,000 words, excluding material not counted under Rule 32(f).

Dated: May 22, 2023

/s/ Veronica Lucero

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on May 22, 2023, I electronically filed the foregoing amicus brief in Support of Arizona's Election Laws with the Clerk using the CM/ECF system, which I understand to have served the parties' counsel who are registered in as CM/ECF users.

/s/ Veronica Lucero